Numb. 6841.

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday January 10. to Tuesday January 13. 1729.

Westminster, January 13.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes, seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Charles Dalton, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers; the Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most gracious Speech.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with great Satisfaction I acquaint you, that We have at length extricated Ourselves from the many Difficulties and Inconveniencies that attended the uncertain State of Affairs in Europe, by having concluded an absolute Peace with the Crown of Spain.

This Negociation has been carried on, and finished, with a perfect Union, Harmony and Fidelity, between Me and my Allies, with no other View, but to prevent the Miseries and Confusion of a War, which if once kindled in Europe, it had been as hard to know the End, as to determine the Success of such a [illegible] Event.

As this Alliance is built upon the Foundation, and is agreeable to the Purport and Intentions of former Treaties, without any Alterations in the principal Articles, but such as tend to render more effectual what the Contracting Powers in the Quadruple Alliance were before engaged to see performed, it is very justly to be presumed, that from this happy Beginning, the great Work of a General Pacification will soon be perfect and compleat.

But if contrary to Expectation, and in Resentment of the present Engagements any new Troubles, although with little Prospect of Success should be raised in Europe, to oppose or disappoint the Execution of them, I am confident, I shall not want the Support and Assistance of my Parliament, in so just a and [illegible] which hath the joint Concurrence of Cause, We [illegible] Powers, for the Ho- so many consi[illegible]erable [illegible]esent Measures and nour and Credit of the [illegible] their united Strength, in Maintenance of our mutual Stipulations.

In the mean time I can assure you, that I have made it my first Care, to consult the immediate Interests of these my Kingdoms, preferable to any other Consideration, and at the Hazard of all other Events.

All former Treaties and Conventions made with Spain in favour of our Trade and Navigation, are renewed and confirmed; not only a free and uninterrupted Exercise of our Commerce for the future, is restored, but just and ample Restitution and Reparation for unlawful Seizures and Depredations, are expressly stipulated and agreed to, in general, all Rights, Privileges and Possessions, in any manner belonging to Me and my Allies, are solemnly reestablished, confirmed and guarantied, and not one Concession is made to the Prejudice of Me or my Subjects.

By this Means a Foundation is laid for removing all former Animosities and Misunderstandings between the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Spain; and it is not at all to be doubted, but that by a faithful Execution of our reciprocal Engagements, a perfect Friendship betwixt the two Nations, united by the common Ties of mutual Interest, may be more strongly established and cemented than ever.

And that my Subjects might reap the earliest Fruits of this advantageous Peace, I gave Orders for the immediate Reduction of a great Number of my Land Forces, and for laying up and discharging a great Part of my Fleet.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

This will make a considerable Saving, in the Expence of the current Year, and I hope it will give a general Satisfaction to my People, as it is a most sensible Pleasure to Me. The proper Estimates shall be laid before you; and I make no doubt, but you will grant Me the necessary Supplies, and enable Me to make good my Engagements with my Allies, in such Manner as shall be most effectual for the publick Service, and most easy to your Fellow-Subjects.

You will see by the Accounts that will be laid before you, the State, Produce and Application of the Sinking-Fund, as far as has been hitherto directed by Act of Parliament; and you will not fail to take into your Consideration, the further Disposition of the growing Produce. You are the best Judges, whether the Circumstances of the Sinking-Fund, and of the National Debt, will as yet admit of giving any Ease where the Duties are most grievous. I have the greatest Regard for the Sinking-Fund; and I look with Compassion, upon the Hardships of the poor Artificers and Manufacturers. I leave it to your D[illegible]e may reasonably, and with [illegible] done, upon this critical Consideration.

My Lords and [illegible]tlemen,

That we may receive the natural Advantages of our present Situation, I must, in the strongest